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INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

25X1A2g

SUBJECT

Comments on Iron Curtain Subjects by  
Expert Analyst

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To 30 May 55

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. [Concerning the Soviet industrial dilemma] ... productivity is highest in the new giant enterprise east of the Urals ... Machine building now is called the "heart industry."
2. ... The picture of industrial prospects is unfavorable. While rendering lip service to Krushchev's new super target which called by the end of this year [1955] for an over-all industrial production 80 per cent above 1950 instead of the 70 per cent provided in the original plan, the appeal of the technocrats stated implicitly that this could be achieved only if the excess production of certain high price industries would more than make up for the relatively slow progress of the bulk of heavy industry. On the basis of the current rate of production listed in the appeal (in relation to the known figures of 1940), the output of pig iron, steel, coal, crude oil and electric power would have to go up by roughly 14, 5, 7, 19 and 9 AUG 1955 per cent respectively during the remaining eight months of the year 10 AUG 1955 if the original targets are to be attained.
3. For crude oil and pig iron such an increase would be unprecedented, to use the polite language of the ECE. For steel and electric power it is possible that the plan will be fulfilled. Once one of the new industrial giants now [May 1955] in the last stages of construction starts to operate, percentage figures will rise steeply.
4. ... Of interest is the relative immunity to purges of the inner nucleus of the technocrats. Thus the new Gosplan is headed by former Oil Minister Baibakov whose Ministry is particularly delinquent. Baibakov has been in charge of oil for nearly 15 years. His successor Mikhail Yevseyenko was Minister of the Oil Industry for the Eastern Regions until the Ministry in 1951 was once more unified. Saburov, a First Deputy Premier probably is in charge of both planning agencies even though officially he is only Chairman of the new State Commission for Current Planning.

- end -

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